

CLAIMS

1. A method for transmitting information between two or more points, comprising:
receiving a virtual number at a first intermediate point from at least one
5 originating point;
converting the virtual number into at least one physical number;
determining a second intermediate point based on the at least one physical
number;
determining at least one destination point based on the at least one physical
10 number; and
transmitting information between the at least one originating point and the at least
one destination point.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the receiving comprises establishing a
15 communication path between the first intermediate point and the at least one originating
point.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the converting comprises comparing the
virtual number to a routing table.
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4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining a second intermediate point
comprises establishing a communication path between the first intermediate point and the
second intermediate point.
- 25 5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining at least one destination point
comprises establishing a communication path between the at least one destination point
and the second intermediate point.
6. An apparatus for transmitting information between at least two points, comprising:

a first intermediate point operatively connected to at least one originating point to receive a virtual number, wherein the virtual number is converted into at least one physical number;

a second intermediate point capable of communicating with a the first intermediate point over a computer network;

at least one destination point operatively connected to the second intermediate point, wherein the second intermediate point is determined based on its proximity to the at least one destination point.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the virtual number comprises an area code, wherein the area code is within a local calling area of the at least one originating point.

8. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein information is transmitted over the computer network based on packets.

9. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein information is transmitted to and from the originating and destination points based on analog signals.

10. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first and second intermediate points are capable of analog to digital conversion and digital to analog conversion.

11. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first and second intermediate points comprise servers.

12. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the at least one originating point and the at least one destination point comprise telephones.

13. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the virtual number is converted into at least one physical number based on a routing table.